liquor tragedy. I also request the Government of India to give some financial assistance from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund to the affected persons. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHAUHAN (Sri Ganganagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for providing me an opportunity to raise the issue of millions of farmers. The farmers of Haryana, Rajasthan, Punjab and other parts of country are not getting reasonable price for their cotton crops. The condition of lakhs of farmers queuing in the market has become pitiable. The price of cotton is Rs. 1100 per quintal. The per acre cotton yield is 4.95 quintal while Rs. 5000 are spent on fertilizers, seeds and pesticides on one acre-crop. It means that the farmers are selling cotton at throw away prices. The farmers sell their product at a very cheap rate in the market but once it is purchased by the traders and stored in the godowns, the price becomes just double, just as the wheat was sold by the farmers in April at the rate of Rs. 400 per quintal and now, it is being sold at the rate of Rs. 900 per quintal. It is nothing but exploitation of farmers and labourers.

Sir, our hon. Prime Minister get it advertised through big banners, radio and doordarshan that he is a farmer's son but the farmers are being exploited at present in such a way. One can well imagine through it, what will be happening in the remaining parts of the country. In the end, I earnestly request the Governmet to raise the cotton price immediately to the tune of Rs. 2500 per quintal and take steps to purchase it from the farmers otherwise the anger of the farmers may take a serious turn for which the Government will be held responsible.

Sir, it was published in yesterday's and day before yesterday's daily 'Punjab Kesri' as to what were the rates of cotton and wheat and how the farmers are being exploited.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR (Begu Sarai) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government to South Karnapur Coal field of Bihar. South Karnapura coal field is located in Bihar in which there are three collieries, Argadda, Barkakana and Syao under Central coal field; South Karnapura coal field has 435 million metric tonnes of high grade i.e. A,B and C grade coal and 448 million metric tonnes of low grade coal. In lack on advance techniques of mining the coal during the years 1994-95 and 1995-96, it suffered a loss of Rs. 135 crore and Rs. 122 crore respectively. 24000 workers are employed in this coal field. The coal fields of Bihar are thicksin and there is no technique in our country for thicksin mining. Therefore, some experts from other countries were called for thicksin mining but they also failed in their job.

Sir, the need of the hour is to develop this coal field and to bring the lossmaking coalfields out of red and to ensure that 24000 workers are not rendred jobless. Therefore an advertisement should be released on large scale. Previously, Bharat Coaking Coal Limited had to face the same problem. A new technology in the form of open cast mining has been developed there. I would like to urge upon the Government, specially the hon. Minister of coal to hold talks with the Ministry of Coal and trade union on the problem of South Karnapura coal field of Coal Industry and find out any solution.

SHRI MANOJ KUMAR SINHA (Ghazipur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through you, to the issue mentioned by Shri Brij Bhushan Tiwari that the entire eastern Uttar Pradesh is reeling under serious shortage of D.A.P. chemical fertilizer at present. Due to blackmarketting prevalent in that area, there is unavailability of di-amonia phosphate in all the Government godowns of Uttar Pradesh. The sowing of Rabi is at its peak in the state. I, through you, request the Government to make immediate arrangements in this regard. The local authorities have told that due to shortage of rail-wagons, D.A.P. chemical fertilizer is not being obtained. I would also like to request the hon. Minister of Railways, present in the House, to instruct the Railway authorities in this regard. Keeping in view the peak season of rabi season's sowing, immediate arrangements should be made for availability of Railway wagons so that availability of Railway wagons so that availability of D.A.P. fertilizer can be ensured.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, since the leader of the House the hon. Minister of Railways is present in the House, I want to deliver my speech in Hindi, I want to say something on problem of Kerala.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : But the speech should not be long.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : I am speaking in Hindi.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Alright, it should not be long in Hindi also.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, the hon. Minister of Railways had called a meeting of the hon. Members hailing from Kerala in which he had given assurance to us but no effort has been made so far to fulfil those assurances. There are 17 Railway Zones in the Country. 6 new Zones have been set up. We had demanded one for Kerala and were optimistic that he would accept it but he overlooked Kerala. In this regard all the Members hailing from Kerala have given a memorandum to the hon. Minister of Railways. We have to go to Madras for every work related to railway. Previously he had given assurance to set up Chief Engineer's office at Kochin but it could not be implemented. A notification was also issued in this regard but that too was cancelled. All the programmes pertaining to Railway are being implemented in Kerala with a snail's speed. The fund is allocated in every